



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Office of Local and Rural Health

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NEW COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR AT KDHE



Joe Blubaugh is the new Communications Director for KDHE. Joe began his duties on Nov. 27. Joe comes to KDHE from the Kansas Department of Transportation where he served as a district public affairs manager dealing with media and stakeholder relations. Joe also serves as chief of public affairs for the 190th Air Refueling Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard. He is a graduate of Fort Hays State University. Joe and his wife Sara have two children; Mikayla, 12 and Jaxon, 7 months.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS EDITOR LEAVING

Anita Hodge, RN, MA, Public Health Nurse Specialist/Refugee Health Coordinator for the Office of Local and Rural Health, KDHE, for the past six years and editor of the monthly newsletter Public Health CONNECTIONS for the past four years will be leaving her post to take a new position at Kansas Health Policy Authority. Anita states, "the Refugee Preventive Health Program has grown over the last six years and the local health departments that assist with the resettlement of refugees do an outstanding job of assuring quality of health care in a timely manner. It has been a privilege to work with such dedicated nurses and staff at the local health departments. Public Health CONNECTIONS has been fun and informative." Patricia Behnke has been Anita's assistant and every month they put CONNECTIONS together. Please keep your news articles coming and send them to pbehnke@kdhe.state.ks.us until further notice.



JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYS AMC THEATERS TO GET FLU MESSAGE OUT

*by Leon F. Vinci, DHA, Health Director
Johnson County Health Department*



Seasonal flu follows predictable seasonal patterns: usually in winter and in temperate climates. Typically healthy adults are not at risk for serious complications because they have built up some immunity. It is young people and the elderly who we worry about, as well as people with some chronic underlying conditions. The CDC says that approximately 36,000 people die every year from the flu, and many thousands suffer through the flu symptoms of fever, cough, runny nose and muscle pain.

So, how do you reach a large amount of people about getting a flu shot in a short amount of time? Take your message to the movies!

In an effort to engage our community to take personal responsibility this year in preventing the spread of seasonal influenza, the Johnson County Health Department has contracted with AMC Theaters in the greater Johnson County area to run more than 1,000 advertisements monthly during the movie previews and before the feature film, on the importance of getting your flu shot this season.

The 15-second ad offers a huge impact on a 40 foot screen. Our ad targets the audience both demographically and geographically with images and pictures that captures the viewer's attention. It lets people know that everyone in the community is susceptible to influenza, but that children and the elderly are especially at risk, so it is essential to get an annual flu shot.

The advertisement is currently running at the AMC Studio 30 in Olathe, and Town Center 20 in Overland Park, where the combined monthly average attendance is more than 250,000 people.

The Johnson County Health Department serves a population of more than 510,000 citizens. It consists of five divisions, Family Health Services, Adult/Child Care Facilities, Disease Containment, Health Education and Administrative Services.

The health department is dedicated to the prevention of disease and promotion of wellness for our community. Diverse, comprehensive services are provided including prenatal care, WIC, health screening clinics for children and adults, HIV testing and counseling, sexually transmitted disease services, immunizations, disease investigation, emergency preparedness, adult and child care facilities compliance monitoring and education on a variety of preventative health topics. The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners serves as the Board of Health.



GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Senate bill 62 was passed and signed into law that offers a new state funded program that gives financial assistance to Grandparents and other qualifying relatives raising children. Beginning Dec. 15, Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Program Services will administer "The Grandparents as Caregivers Assistance" (GP as CG) program, which provides monthly financial assistance to grandparents or other relatives raising children. Applications for this program begin Dec. 15 and benefits will be available Jan. 1. To qualify for this program you must:

- Be a grandparent or other qualifying relative (aunt, cousin, great-grandparent, etc)
- Have legal custody of the child or children
- Be 50 years or older
- Live with the child or children for whom you are requiring assistance
- Have a household income of less than 130 percent of the federal poverty level (the maximum 2006 income levels are available at the Social and Rehabilitation Services

Web site is available at the link listed below.

In addition:

- The child must not be in state custody
- The parent of the child must not live with you
- The monthly benefit is \$200 for one child, \$400 for two children, and \$600 for three or more children. Funding for this program is limited and new applications will not be accepted or approved if funding is depleted. Beginning Dec. 15, more information about the Grandparents as Caregivers Program will be available at www.srskansas.org/ISD/ees/grandparents_caregivers.htm.

A 64-page Grandparents/Relative Caregivers: Starting Points Resource Guide resource manual for relative caregivers is available at www.srskansas.org/KEESM/Changes/ES6000_Grandparents_Handbook_01_07.pdf.

GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT & NEK TUPP

The North East Kansas (NEK) Multi-County Tobacco Use Prevention Program commemorated the Great



American Smokeout in a regional way this year. Volunteers in six counties: Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Nemaha, Jackson and Jefferson, participated in "A Pack for a Snack" project throughout the local communities. Six grocery stores, one community college and many volunteers teamed up with the NEK TUPP program to set up "Trade Stations" in which tobacco users were given the opportunity to trade their tobacco product for a snack and a t-shirt. Tobacco use prevention goodie bags were also handed out to elementary students passing through the grocery store. This activity provided opportunity for tobacco prevention education, encourage the use of the Kansas Quitline and collaborate with local businesses and community members to raise tobacco use awareness throughout the Northeast Kansas area.

Left to right: Margie Grace, Central/Colorado Holton Elementary School Counselor; Jenna Hunter, KDHE NEK outreach coordinator; and Angie Reith, Jackson County Health Department Director. Front row: Maddison Reith.

NEW PROPOSED KAN BE HEALTH (KBH) SCREENING FORM IN REVIEW



The Kan Be Healthy Advisory committee has reviewed proposed changes to the KBH Screening Form. With the input of providers, there will be a new form available in the near future.

Beverly Steele, the KAN Be Healthy Coordinator with the Kansas Medical Assistance Program (KMAP), provided the following information:

- ❖ A new policy was required prior to implementing any changes to the form. That policy has been written and submitted. Additionally, it will allow for changes to be made to the KBH Screening Form in the future without a policy (although certain requirements must still be met).
- ❖ The introduction of this policy was delayed, pending the approval of the EPSDT State Plan amendments that were recently submitted. The EPSDT State Plan has been approved with an effective date of July 1, 2007.
- ❖ The KMAP provider manual and KBH registered nurse training manual will need to be updated to reflect the changes in the screening form.
- ❖ The KBH Web site will be updated with the approved form and updated manual once the changes are approved.



Until a news release is sent out about the availability of the new screening form, providers are to continue to use the most current approved KBH form (3-26-2004 version), as well as the Mandatory Lead Screening Questionnaire that must be completed with every KBH exam that is done with children age 6 – 72 months. These documents, as well as forms, manuals, educational bulletins, and resources for practitioners and consumers can be accessed at: www.kmap-state-ks.us/Public/Kan%20Be%20Healthy%20Main.asp

KDHE VACCINATES STATE EMPLOYEES AGAINST SEASONAL FLU

by Mike Cameron

Risk Communications Specialist, KDHE



Nearly 2,400 state employees took ***Don't Let Flu Bug U***, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's seasonal flu campaign to heart last week. On Dec. 7 and 8, KDHE provided free flu shots at a two-day clinic in the Curtis State Office Building in Topeka. Vaccinations were also available at the KDHE regional offices in Dodge City, Lawrence and Wichita on Dec. 7 and in Chanute, Hays and Salina on Dec. 8.

The clinics were planned and managed using the National Incident Management System (NIMS). By using NIMS as an incident command system, KDHE was able to conduct the clinics as a mass vaccination exercise also. The exercise tested the capability to vaccinate a large number of state employees in a short period of time, much the way KDHE would during a public health crisis such as a terrorist attack using biological or chemical weapons.

"KDHE is delighted with the number of Kansas state employees that took advantage of this preventive health opportunity; for many it was their first influenza vaccination," said State Epidemiologist Gail Hansen, who also served as Incident Commander. "Every person involved took their task seriously and performed amazingly well to ensure the success of this influenza vaccination clinic."

Exact figures are still being tallied, but a preliminary count shows the following breakdown by location:

- Topeka: 1750
- Wichita: 240
- Lawrence: 49
- Dodge City: 42
- Salina: 110
- Hays: 88
- Chanute: 87
- **Total: 2366**



The Topeka clinic was manned by 45 KDHE employees over the two days. The one-day clinics, held in the district offices, were staffed with an additional 24 KDHE employees and one employee from the Department on Aging. The Kansas Highway Patrol provided the clinic site in Hays.

The flu shots were provided in cooperation with the Shawnee County Health Agency and Martha Froetschner served on the planning and command staff. KDHE also partnered with HealthQuest and the Kansas Health Policy Authority, with Cheryl Miller notifying the HR managers in the various state agencies.

Evaluations completed by employees who were vaccinated were very positive, and HealthQuest received several comments about how efficiently the clinics were conducted in Topeka, where at times, the line stretched all the way from the clinic site in the first floor break room to the front door of the Curtis Building.

For more information on how to protect yourself against seasonal influenza, visit the KDHE ***Don't Let Flu Bug U*** Web page at: <http://www.kdheks.gov/flu/FluBugU.htm>.

THE KANSAS IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY, KSWEBIZ, CONTINUES TO MOVE ALONG!

by Debra Warren

Project Manager, Immunization Registry

As of Oct. 31, KSWebIZ has been deployed to 104 private and public health vaccination providers. There are now 640 active end users on KSWebIZ, which currently is maintaining information on 688,889 patients and 3,215,316 vaccinations. Forty-five local health departments and 59 private providers are online and accessing KSWebIZ directly.

As we wait and look forward to the KIPHS' completion of their HL7 interface, we have focused our enrollment efforts on private providers. We have received so many enrollment requests from potential users that our two-person team of Mike Parsons and Sue Bowden has been spread pretty thin across the state of Kansas! The KIPHS HL7 piece will allow the remaining PHClinic counties to continue use of this system to record immunization information and share data with KSWebIZ and other immunization providers across the state.

The registry team met with representatives at the Kansas School Nurse Conference in July. Since that time, we have had a conference call with the school nurse advisory committee. We captured detailed requests from this group for customizations to the KSWebIZ system that will meet the needs of school nurses. One of our primary concerns has been to develop processes allow that school nurses to share immunization data and remain

in compliance with FERPA [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act]. Along with other consent measures, this issue is being further addressed through the generation of common consent language that is being routed for approval within KDHE.

We continue to work closely with health plans so that they can request immunization information on a list of their specific health plan patients. Health plans will also be providing data on their patients since they will be able to send updated information back to the registry on these identified individuals. The interface has been designed and is being routed internally for approval. Once approved, the interface will be shared with the Health Plan advisory committee, and work will begin to develop, test and implement the interface. It is anticipated that we will be in a position to exchange data with insurance plans by March 2007.

The KDHE IT department is working closely with Medicaid to develop an HL7 message exchange between the MMIS system and KWebIZ. Once again, using the HL7 format allows us to maintain a standard of exchanging information that is much easier to sustain. Once implemented, the MMIS data will be extracted into the registry and will significantly increase the population of KWebIZ to better serve providers using the system. We expect that beginning in January, Medicaid data will be extracted into the registry, with batch imports being processed on a regular basis.

Sue Bowden and Niki Lambrecht continue to work with KWebIZ users to assist them in tracking and reconciling their physical inventory with KWebIZ inventory totals.

All in all, we are progressing at a pace beyond what was anticipated. Hope to see you on the system soon!



Pictures of Sept. 19-21 Immunization Conference, in Wichita.



LOGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS FIRST POINT OF DISPENSING SITE EXERCISE



Georgetta Schoenfeld, RN, Administrator of the Logan County Health Department, was all smiles following their first Point of Dispensing Exercise, (POD) held on Wednesday, Oct 25. Approximately 620 flu shots were given that day during the two sessions of the clinic. There were 37 volunteers for the morning shift that went from 7 to 11 a.m. and 32 volunteers at the 3 to 7 p.m. shift. The volunteers did a great job. The average time from start to exit was between seven to 10 minutes. There was a continuous flow of participants throughout the day. Just in time training was done the day before the clinic and flu

shots were given to the volunteers at that time. Following the exercise the health department evaluated each area of the POD site and improvements will be made at the next POD exercise. The greatest obstacle was getting enough flu vaccine. The last two hours of the clinic the health department had to borrow 100 doses from local physician's office. Educating the public and getting their "buy in" of receiving flu shots in a different setting was another hurdle, but after the exercise the health department received many positive comments. Evaluations were taken from both the clients and volunteers. The Logan County Health Department is a member of the West Central Public Health Initiative, and Cindy Mullen is the regional coordinator.



NEK HEALTH DEPARTMENTS PREPARE FOR INFLUENZA

**The best way to
prevent disease
is to wash your
hands.**



The Brown County Health Department launched a campaign to educate students in Hiawatha schools on the spread of germs. Pamela Scott, bioterrorism coordinator for NEK is trying to prepare the communities for the possibility of an influenza pandemic. Scott was hired by the Brown County Health Department in a multi-county effort with Atchison and Jackson counties, as part of a federal plan in the counties to educate and prepare people.

As a part of the educational process, Scott visited Hiawatha Elementary School to demonstrate the importance of hand washing. Students learned about all the different germs that can found be on their hands and how they can acquire them. Students were shown the proper way to wash their hands. Then Pamela squirted a substance called "Glow-Germ" on students' hands. The students rubbed the substance all over their hands and examined their hands for dirt. Most students thought their hands were clean, until they placed them under a black light and all the "germs" glowed in the dark. After the students observed the germs they rewashed their hands.

KANSAS CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS LIBRARY

by Mike Heideman,

Communications Design Specialist, KDHE

"Managing the Risk: 2005 Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response Annual Report" has been added to the Kansas Center for Public Health Preparedness Library. The library is designed to serve as a research, training and education resource for local agencies.

Some new materials have recently been added to the library. They include:

- KDHE Volunteer Recruitment Toolkit CD (5 copies)
- School Closing as a Potential Means to Counter Pandemic Influenza – CDC Tabletop Exercise Participant Manual & CD (1 copy)

The CPHP Library contains more than 250 print, video and multimedia resources on a wide range of preparedness and response topics.

All items that are checked out of the library should be returned within 30 calendar days, unless special arrangements are made in advance. Clicking on the "Information" link on the PHIX home page and then selecting "BT Library" directs people to more information about the library.

Please contact Mike Heideman at 785-296-4363 or mheidema@kdhe.state.ks.us if you would like to checkout an item or if you have questions about the library.

DIETITIAN NEEDED IN SHAWNEE COUNTY HEALTH AGENCY



The Shawnee County Health Agency is looking for a Dietitian (half-time). This position directs client counseling in multiple community settings, focusing on the clients' physical and emotional needs in order to develop positive nutritional habits. Duties include:

- ☺ Provides nutrition anticipatory guidance, support and education, and oral health information.
- ☺ Develops nutrition care plans for CHC clients.
- ☺ Develops and designs interactive nutrition education displays and education classes.
- ☺ Provides follow-up nutrition education through display boards or individual appointments for high-risk CHC clients.
- ☺ Presents nutrition education programs to the community.
- ☺ Collaborates with other health and social service agencies in the community in an effort to improve health and nutrition status in the community.
- ☺ Evaluates, organizes and maintains nutrition education materials. Participates in agency quality assurance programs for continuity and improvement of CHC client services.
- ☺ Adheres to dietetic standards of practice and follows Agency procedures and protocols as well as local, state and federal regulations. Will travel to various community sites and satellite clinic locations as needed to deliver services.
- ☺ Completes accurate program time studies and travel reports.

Minimum Qualification:

- ☺ Degree from an accredited college/university in dietetics or nutrition.
- ☺ Must be a Registered Dietitian with the American Dietetic Association.
- ☺ License as a Registered Dietitian in the State of Kansas.
- ☺ Pending graduation from an accredited college/university in dietetics or nutrition before the date of hire. Required to become a Registered Dietitian with the American Dietetic Association and be licensed in the state of Kansas within six months of employment.
- ☺ Valid driver's license.
- ☺ Spanish speaking skills desirable.
- ☺ Prefer experience in a public health setting.

For more information call 785-233-8200 ext. 4435 or www.co.shawnee.ks.us.

REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH MEETINGS

Central Region: Meetings are held at the Reno County Health Department, 209 W Second, Hutchinson, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639 if you have any questions. Dates are:

Feb. 28 May 23 Aug. 22 Nov. 21

North Central Region: Please contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639 for meeting locations. Dates are:

Mar. 27 June 26 Sept. 25

Northeast Region: Meetings are held at the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Flint Hills Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Topeka, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please call 785-296-1200 if you have any questions. Dates are:

Mar. 8 June 14 Sept. 13 Dec. 13

Northwest Region: Meetings are held 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the NW Educational Service Center, Oakley. Contact Georgette Schoenfeld, RN, Logan County Health Department, for a lunch reservation at 785-672-4502. Please contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639 if you have any questions. Dates are:
Mar. 8 June 14 Sept. 13 Dec. 13

Southeast Region: Meetings are held 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Southeast District Office, 1500 W Seventh, Meadowlark Room, Chanute. Please contact Jon Anderson at 620-431-2390 if you have any questions. Dates are:
Feb. 8 May 3 Aug. 9 Nov. 8

Southwest Region: Meetings are held 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Finney County Administration Building, 311 N Ninth, Garden City. Please contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639 if you have any questions. Dates are:
Feb. 16 May 18 Aug. 17 Nov. 16

BRIDGING THE GAP – MEDICAL INTERPRETER TRAINING



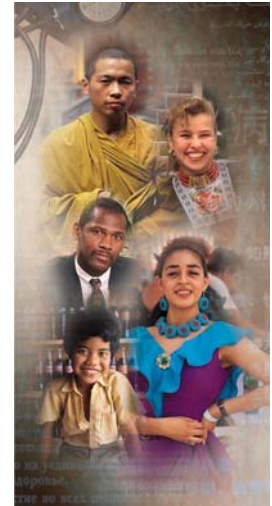
Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Office of Local and Rural Health (OLRH), is proud to announce its sixth year of sponsoring “Bridging the Gap” – Medical Interpreter Training. Medical interpreter training is 40 hours of intensive, interactive learning for bilingual participants. The projected outcomes are to train qualified bilingual individuals in medical/social service interpreting and to provide educational training to medical and social service providers on their legal obligations to provide language assistance to limited or non-English speaking clients. Jewish Vocational Service of Kansas City provides the medical interpreter training. The training sessions and contact information for registration are listed below:

South Central Kansas

University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita
Apr. 16 - 20, 2007 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
1010 N Kansas (Meadowlark Room 1305), Wichita

Southwest Kansas

Area SRS Building
June 4 - 8, 2007 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
1710 Palace Drive, Garden City



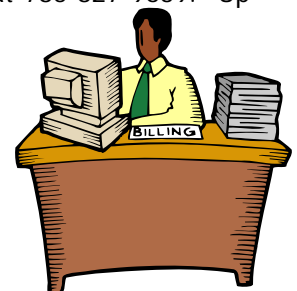
For more information or registration please contact Cathy Anderson at Jewish Vocational Service (JVS), 1608 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO 64108 or call 816-471-2808 ext. 124 or e-mail Cathy at canders@jvskc.org. You may also contact Brandi Miller at JVS at 816-471-2808 or email bmiller@jvskc.org.

BILLING WORKSHOPS

NE Billing Group meets at the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Flint Hills Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Topeka, 9 a.m. - noon. For more information, please call 785-296-1200. Upcoming dates are:
Feb. 1 May 3 Aug. 2 Nov. 1

Billing Biddies meets 9 a.m. – noon. For more information, contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639. Upcoming dates:
Mar. 7 June 6 Sept. 5 Dec. 5

Billers Anonymous meets 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639. Upcoming dates:
Feb. 14 May 9 Aug. 8 Nov. 14



Mission Impossible Group meets 9 a.m. – noon, Reno County Health Department, Hutchinson. For more information, contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639. Upcoming dates:

Feb. 22 May 24 Aug. 23 Nov. 29

KUG's meets from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Satanta District Hospital's education room (in basement). For more information, contact Michelle Miller 620-675-8191 mmiller@satantahospital.org.

Billers-R-Us meets at the district office in Chanute, Meadowlark Room, 9 a.m. - noon. For more information, contact Jon Anderson at 920-431-2390.

KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

This year's Public Health Certificate program will begin in Apr. 2007. The KDHE Office of Local and Rural Health will coordinate the sessions in partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. The program will utilize a blended learning approach incorporating on-line learning and on-site sessions.

Objectives: To develop competence in the following areas:

1. Public Health System
2. Community Health Improvement
3. Policy Development, Advocacy, and Public Health Law
4. Program Development and Evaluation
5. Public Health Administration
6. Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
7. Environmental Health
8. Applied Epidemiology
9. Infectious Disease Preparedness



On-Line Sessions: Students will complete approximately 85 hours of on-line learning. This consists of three or four on-line courses in each of the nine objective areas listed above. Each course takes approximately three hours to complete and consists of readings, activities, assignments, and assessments designed to increase knowledge in each competency area.

Five on-site sessions will be provided at selected locations across the state. All participants will meet in Topeka for the first and last sessions. Each location requires a minimum enrollment of six participants. Proposed locations for the remaining three sessions include: Topeka, Chanute, Wichita, Dodge City, Hays, Salina, and Kansas City Metro area.

Dates include:

- Apr. 24 – 25
- Jul. 24 – 25
- Oct. 23 – 24
- Jan. 29 – 30
- Mar. 25 – 26

Program expectations:

- Have access to high speed Internet
- Actively participate in all five on-site sessions, which include two in Topeka
- Dedicate an average of two hours per week towards on-line course work
- Written work will be expected over the course of the program, including a brief reflection paper at the end of the program.

Program costs for the entire year long program is \$1000 per applicant. A limited number of scholarships for \$750 are available from the Kansas Health Foundation and the Heartland Centers. All applicants are responsible for the remaining \$250.

Watch for program and scholarship applications to be sent electronically in December

For further questions about the 2007 Public Health Certificate Program, contact: Linda Frazier, KDHE Public Health Workforce Coordinator at lfrazier@kdhe.state.ks.us or 785-296-3641.

**LOCAL HEALTH SECTION
OFFICE OF LOCAL & RURAL HEALTH**

<p style="text-align: center;">Shirley Orr Director, Local Health 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-296-7100 Cell phone – 316-250-6940 Fax number 785-296-1231 E-mail address – sorr@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>	
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<p>Anita Hodge PH Nurse Specialist/Refugee Health Coordinator 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-368-8110 Cell phone – 785-231-4357 Fax number - 785-296-1231 E-mail address – ahodge@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Debbie Nickels Kansas TRAIN Administrator 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-291-3457 Cell phone – 785-231-4503 Fax number – 785-296-1231 E-mail address – dnickels@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>
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